

SN. 09/624,619

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:011

IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows (with the changes identified):*

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus comprising:

conveying means for conveying a sheet having a side edge extending in a conveying direction of the sheet;

sheet processing means for processing a sheet having a side edge, the sheet processing means being movable in a width direction, which is perpendicular to the conveying direction;

conveying means for conveying the sheet to be processed by said sheet processing means;

detecting means for detecting the side edge of the sheet, said detecting means being movable in the width direction together with said sheet processing means the side edge extending along a conveying direction of the sheet; and

a first moving means for moving said sheet processing means and said detecting means in the width direction; and

control means for controlling said sheet processing means to process the sheet at a position based on a detection result of said detecting means on the sheet, after a detecting operation by said detecting means first moving means to move said sheet processing means and said detecting means in predetermined timing and to stop said sheet processing means and said detecting means from moving in the width direction in response said detecting means detecting the side edge of the sheet; and

wherein said control means controls the predetermined timing of the detecting operation by said detecting means so that said detecting means detects the side edge of the sheet at a vicinity of a sheet processing position of the sheet at which said sheet processing means processes the sheet.

12. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said control means determines said the predetermined timing of the detection operation of the side

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edge of the sheet by said detecting means; based on a length of the sheet in the conveying direction of the sheet.

13. (*Currently Amended*) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said sheet processing means is adapted for processing plural types of sheets of different lengths in the conveying direction of the sheets, and wherein said control means controls the predetermined timing of the detection operation of detecting the side edge of each of the plural types of sheets by said detecting means depending on the length of each of the plural types of sheets in the conveying direction of the sheets.

14. (*Currently Amended*) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein if the sheet process is carried out on a sheet of a first size or a sheet of a second size having a larger length in the conveying direction of the sheets than said sheet of the first size, said control means delays the predetermined timing of the detection operation of detecting the side edge of the said for the sheet of the second size with respect to the predetermined timing of the detection operation of detecting the side edge of said for the sheet of the first size.

15. (*Currently Amended*) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said control means sets the predetermined timing of the detection operation of detecting the side edge off for each of said plural types of sheets by said detecting means to different values of timing according to the different lengths of said plural types of sheets in the conveying direction of the sheets such that the detection of the side edge of each of the sheets is always carried out at the location close to said sheet processing position.

16-18. (*Canceled*)

19. (*Previously Amended*) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said control means causes said sheet processing means to process the sheet without stopping the

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conveyance of the sheet by said conveying means.

20. (*Original*) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said sheet processing means includes punching process means for executing a punching process on the sheet.

21. (*Previously Amended*) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said sheet processing means processes the sheet without executing a sheet aligning process on the sheet.

22. (*Currently Amended*) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said sheet processing apparatus is adapted for connecting to an image forming apparatus for forming images on a sheet, and wherein said sheet processing means processes the sheet supplied from said image forming apparatus.

23-25. (*Canceled*)

26. (*Currently Amended*) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said sheet processing means processes the sheet at a vicinity of a trailing end of the sheet, and wherein said control means controls the predetermined timing of the detecting operation by said detecting means so that said detecting means detects the side edge of the sheet at the vicinity of the trailing end of the sheet of a location at which said sheet processing means processes the sheet.

27-28. (*Canceled*)

29. (*Previously Added*) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said sheet processing means punches holes through the sheet.

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30. (Previously Added) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the holes are aligned along a direction that is perpendicular to the conveying direction of the sheet.

31-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A sheet processing apparatus comprising:

a conveyor that conveys a sheet having a side edge extending in a conveying direction of the sheet;

a sheet processor for processing at the sheet having a side edge, said sheet processor being movable in a width direction, which is perpendicular to the conveying direction;

a conveyor for conveying the sheet to said sheet processor;

a detector for detecting that detects the side edge of the sheet, the side edge of the sheet extending along a conveying direction of the sheet, said detector being movable in the width direction together with said sheet processor; and

a first moving device that moves said sheet processor and said detector in the width direction; and

a controller for controlling that controls said sheet processor to process the sheet to a position based on a detection result of said detector on the sheet, after a detecting operation by said detector, first moving device to move said sheet processor and said detector in predetermined timing and to stop said sheet processor and said detector from moving in the width direction in response to said detector detecting the side edge of the sheet,

wherein said controller controls the predetermined timing of the detecting operation by said detector so that said detector detects the side edge of the sheet at a vicinity of a sheet processing position of the sheet at which said sheet processor processes the sheet.--

34. (Previously Added) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said sheet processing means punches holes through the sheet.

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35. (*Previously Added*) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the holes are aligned along a direction that is perpendicular to the conveying direction of the sheet.

36. (*New*) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said detecting means comprises a light emitting part and a light receiving part to detect the side of the sheet.

37. (*New*) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 11, further including second moving means for moving said detecting means in the width direction before conveying the sheet.

38. (*New*) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said detector comprises a light emitting part and a light receiving part to detect the side edge of the sheet.

39. (*New*) A sheet processing apparatus according to claim 33, further including a second moving device that moves said detector in the width direction before conveying the sheet.